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Former Senior Aide to U.S. Senator Mel Martinez to Join J.C. Watts Companies as Partner

Washington – Tripp Baird, who most recently served as Legislative Director for U.S. Senator Mel Martinez of Florida, has joined the J.C. Watts Companies as Partner. Tripp will be leading business activities in corporate strategy and public affairs, with a particular emphasis on public policy matters before the U.S. Congress and the Bush Administration.

Company Chairman J.C. Watts, Jr. made the following statement:

“Tripp Baird is one of the most respected legislative professionals in the U.S. Senate. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our company. He has led major legislative projects and managed a team of professionals to accomplish significant objectives for the State of Florida. Tripp’s ability to define and execute assignments is widely recognized and will provide our customers and business partners tremendous capacity to get the job done.”

U.S. Senator Mel Martinez (R-FL) added:

“Tripp was a true asset to my office. He provided leadership, sound policy advice, and strategic direction. Though he will be missed, I wish him the best in his new capacity,” said Martinez.

Tripp directed legislative operations, advised the senator on legislative and executive branch policies, and coordinated the senator’s policy strategy. From 2001 to 2004, Tripp served as director of U.S. Senate relations for the Heritage Foundation. Tripp also worked on the Floor of the U.S. Senate for Majority Leader Trent Lott from 1997 to 2001.

About the J.C. Watts Companies. The J.C. Watts Companies is diverse, multi-industry company based in Washington, D.C. It works with Fortune 500, medium, and small businesses, professional associations, athletic organizations, colleges and universities, health care providers, governments, and non-profits. It is a certified Minority Business Enterprise by the National Minority Supplier Development Council. Its chairman, J.C. Watts, Jr., served eight years in the U.S. Congress as a representative from Oklahoma.

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